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FILE

DEC 19 1958

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Dear Don:

In your letter to Secretary Dulles of December 9, you asked for the reaction of the Department of State to certain recommendations on the Berlin situation. As you know, the question of Berlin was subsequently discussed at a meeting of the National Security Council on December 11. The President approved, with some modifications, a draft telegram instructing our Embassy at Bonn to raise with the British and French Embassies there a reconsideration of existing contingency planning with a view to eliminating all proposals for dealing with GDR officials at autobahn and railway check points. Instructions on this matter were embodied in the Department of State's telegram number 1236, of December 11, to the Embassy at Bonn. The Department of Defense received copies of the telegram the following day. Preliminary reports of the discussions of the Four Foreign Ministers at Paris on December 14 indicate that considerable progress has been made in bringing the British and French around to our point of view.

Although our position will necessarily depend to a large extent on the course of forthcoming discussions with the British and French and consultations with the German Federal Republic, the Department of State concurs with the view of the Department of Defense that the Soviet note of November 27 should be seized by the Western Powers as an opportunity for a diplomatic offensive on the entire complex of German reunification, European security, and disarmament.

Most sincerely,

/S/ CHRISTIAN A. HERTER

Acting Secretary

S/S-RO

DEC 19 1958  
A true copy of  
signed original

EUR:GER:GPA:TDMcKiernan:caw 12-16-58

G - Mr. Murphy GER - Mr. Vigderman

EUR - Mr. Kohler EE - Mr. Freers

(in substance)

Returned in S/S-RO 12-18-58

The Honorable

Donald A. Quarles,

Acting Secretary of Defense,

Department of Defense.

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Series A.

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Dear Mr. Quarles:

Reference is made to your letter of December 9, 1958 concerning our planning and policy to deal with the current Berlin situation.

As you know, a draft telegram instructing the Embassy at Bonn to raise urgently with the British and French Embassies a reconsideration of existing contingency planning with a view to eliminating all proposals for dealing with GDR officials at Autobahn and railway checkpoints was approved by Secretary Dulles and forwarded to the President. The President, after consultation with the National Security Council, today approved the telegram with some modifications.

1236 + *Bonn*  
*Dec 11*

Although our position will necessarily depend to a large extent on the course of forthcoming discussions with the British and French and consultations with the German Federal Republic, the Department of State concurs with the view of the Department of Defense that the Soviet note of November 27 should be seized by the Western Powers as an opportunity for a diplomatic offensive on the entire complex of German reunification, European security, and disarmament.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Secretary

The Honorable  
Donald A. Quarles,  
Acting Secretary of Defense,  
Department of Defense.

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EUR:GER  
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EE - Mr. Freers  
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